probably be the most important Maritime State in India. This would give Cochin a proud position in the scheme of things. With their high intellectual attainments and the standard of education and literacy that prevail in the State, the people of Cochin need have no apprehension about their fate, if they choose to throw in their lot with their countrymen; in fact a thickly populated State like Cochin with a highly educated population has everything to gain and nothing to lose when it becomes a member of the wider body politic. Such a membership will throw open to the sons and daughters of Cochin a wider avenue of service. If the federal scheme of Government contemplated in the Government of India Bill is worked by all the parties concerned in a spirit of goodwill and co-operation it will, in my opinion, ultimately lead to the establishment of a United India unknown through all the ages and vicissitudes through which our country has passed; and I hope that the people of Cochin will have opportunities of exercising their talents in the building up of this greater India.

QUESTIONS AND ANWERS.

Mr. President I find that the practice of answering questions is simply for Hon'ble Members to call out the number of the question and then immediately proceed to the asking of supplementary questions If it is the desire of the Hon'ble Members to continue that practice I have no objection. But the practice of the House of Commons and the Legislative Assembly is for the answer to be actually read out on the floor of the House by the Member of the Government concerned. That has got a distinct advantage. It makes other Hon'ble Members, besides those who have given notice of questions, to take interest in what the question is and understand the answer and it gives them an opportunity to put supplementary questions. So, if Hon'ble Members would like to introduce that practice what I propose to do is this: I will call out the name of the Hon'ble Member who has asked the question. The Hon'ble Member will get up and simply read out the number of the question and the Member of Government concerned will get up and read out the answer and then supplementry questions can be put. Will that suit Hon'ble Members?

Midwives—Public Health Department.

1. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) how many midwives have been entertained by the Director of Public Health;

(b) what are their duties;

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(c) who examined their efficiency and capacity;

(d) who controls their work?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(a) None.

(b) to (d). These questions do not arise in view of answer to (a).

Mr. T. A Ramachandra Ayyar:— Do not women in the rural areas under the jurisdiction of the Director of Public Health deliver? Do not they require midwives?

Dr E. S. R. Menon:— I do not think that that is a supplementary question.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— It is for the President to decide whether it is a supplementary question or not.

Mr. President:— It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— Has he any Nurses under him?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon:— It is quite plain from the answer. There are no Nurses.

Mr. T. A Ramachandra Ayyar:— Are there any ladies who do midwifery or nursery under him?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon:— We have got a few health visitors to do the work.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— What are they called?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon:— They are called Health Visitors and when undergoing training they are called Pupil Health Visitors.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— How many are they?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon:— Six, and six under training.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:— What are their duties?

Dr. E. S. R Menon:— Their duty is to give advice to expectant mothers and they do conduct cases when they are called on.

Consolidated Allowance—Director of Public Health.

2. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what is the consolidated allowance given to the Director of Public Health per month;

(2) who else among the Heads of Departments are given such allowance;

(3) what was the reason for this special treatment with regard to the Director of Public Health?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—(1). Rs. 125.

(2) The Tramway Engineer.

(3) No special treatment has been accorded by this arrangement.

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